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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 46/31 of 6 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 31st and 40th meetings, from 12 to 25 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.31-40).

4. In connection with item 56, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (A/47/304);

(b) Letter dated 25 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/93).

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II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.19

5. On 29 October, Bangladesh and Pakistan submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" (A/C.1/47/L.19), which was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 32nd meeting, on 12 November.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.19 by a recorded vote of 117 to 2, with 12 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bhutan, India.

Abstaining: Algeria, Brazil, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Yemen.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986, 42/29 of 30 November 1987, 43/66 of 7 December 1988, 44/109 of 15 December 1989, 45/53 of 4 December 1990 and 46/31 of 6 December 1991 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note with appreciation of the declarations issued at the highest level by Governments by South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes, reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Welcoming the recent proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

Taking note of the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

Taking note also of the proposal to hold consultations among five nations with a view to ensuring nuclear non-proliferation in the region,

Considering that the eventual participation of other States as appropriate in this process could be useful,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 1/ regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective;

3. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States that have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary cooperation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

2/ A/47/304.